

H.A

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/729,360 | GOLAY ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Brij B Shrivastav | 2859 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed on December 4, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>March 22, 2004</u> <u>10/18/04</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowed, as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a method for magnetic resonance imaging in which it is desired to eliminate MR signals of selected tissues, fluid or body components in a target areas of an object to be imaged, including the steps application of the RF inversion pulses so that at least one of the plurality of excitation pulses follows in a time sequence of the application of one of the applied RF inversion pulses, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim(s).

Claims 2-11 are allowed, as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a method for magnetic resonance imaging in which it is desired to eliminate MR signals of selected tissues, fluid or body components in a target areas of an object to be imaged, including the steps of sequencing the acquisition of MR image data so image data is being acquired following in time sequence the application of one of the applied RF inversion pulses, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claims.

Claim 12 is allowed, as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a method for magnetic resonance imaging in which it is desired to eliminate MR signals of selected tissues, fluid or body components in a target areas of an object to be imaged, including the steps of one or more successive application of inversion pulses with excitation pulses associated with MR imaging process so as to allow acquisition of MR image data at a condition where signals from the selected tissues, fluid or body components are minimized, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim(s).

Claims 13-19 are allowed, as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a method for magnetic resonance imaging in which it is desired to eliminate MR signals of selected tissues, fluid or body components in a target areas of an object to be imaged, including the steps of acquisition of MR image data under a condition where signals from the selected tissues, fluid or body components are being maintained essentially nulled, in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim(s).

Claim 20 is allowed, as the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a magnetic resonance imaging system, including interleaving the RF inversion pulses and the RF excitation pulses so that MR image data is acquired while the controller maintains the nulling of signals from the selected constituents, in combination with the remaining limitation of the claim.

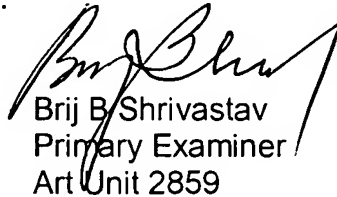
2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brij B Shrivastav whose telephone number is 571-272-2250. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. F. Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

January 8, 2004


Brij B. Shrivastav
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2859
